



September 19, 2018

Dear Commissioner Carr;

We, the undersigned coalition of minority Chambers of Commerce, applaud your leadership at the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) to speed the deployment of next-generation 5G wireless networks and the fixed broadband networks that power them. Please continue to craft and implement policies that will make this extremely important new technology available to all American consumers and businesses, including the many U.S. companies that are owned and operated by minority citizens.

Minority-owned businesses are an integral part of the U.S. economy. Data compiled by [The Business Journals](#) in 2017 revealed:

- Minority-owned businesses are on the rise. There are over 11 million in the U.S. now, which is nearly double what it was 10 years ago.
- Minority business owners depend on wireless technology. Wireless services and applications are “extremely” or “very” critical to 85% of minority business owners. The same is true for only 68% of non-minority business owners.

While the data – especially as it relates to growth – is encouraging, the reality is that minority business owners still face significant challenges, including access to capital and other resources. Sometimes this translates into being on the wrong side of the digital divide.

Studies show that minorities are less likely to have access to high-speed internet and, when they do have access, are more likely to connect with a wireless device. That is why we are collectively advocating policies which promote investment in and deployment of wireless technologies such as 5G and Wi-Fi and the fixed broadband networks which power them and deliver high speed broadband to consumers nationwide.

For minority business owners, the flexibility to run their operations whenever and wherever is important. That is especially true for those whose businesses are not centered on brick-and-mortar locations, but instead something more mobile in nature itself, like a food truck. Networks that are fast and reliable are paramount so that payment systems, inventory management, and much more work properly to keep up with the needs of the business.

Deployment of advanced wireless broadband networks, such as 5G, hold the potential for huge economic gains that will help boost communities across the country. Deploying this technology is expected to release \$275 billion in [nationwide investment](#), create 3 million new jobs, and increase U.S. GDP by \$500 billion. Once in place, the long-term global [impact](#) of 5G in new

goods and services will top an estimated \$12 trillion by 2035. It is essential that minority businesses are able to achieve their fair share of this economic bounty.

That is why it is so important for the FCC to exercise leadership at the national level and act to help remove any regulatory barriers that would impede the rapid deployment of next generation networks. Moreover, this leadership will equip minority businesses with next-generation technologies that will give them a better footing to compete and succeed in the digital economy.

Ensuring widespread distribution of the benefits of 5G begins with deployment. All communities deserve access to 5G networks. The FCC along with several states and localities have already taken steps to speed deployment by modernizing outdated rules designed for large cell towers. These steps must be taken so that a dense network of small cells can be established across the country. Small cells are a key ingredient to the success of 5G, so it is important to get the policy right at the outset.

As the FCC works to ensure that obsolete rules do not stand in the way of progress and minority business owners who depend on next generation access networks, we urge the FCC to adopt technology neutral policies that encourage broadband deployment. For example, ensuring that cable operators – whether incumbents or new entrants – may use their systems to provide information and other non-cable services without additional local burdens is essential to competition. The Commission’s reinstatement of the mixed-use rule will preclude localities from slowing down deployment and innovation by requiring fees in addition to franchise fees.

Thank you for the work you have done and thank you for continuing to make deployment of advanced next generation access networks one of your top priorities.

Sincerely,

Asian/Pacific Islander American Chamber of Commerce & Entrepreneurship  
National LGBT Chamber of Commerce  
United States Black Chambers, Inc.  
United States Hispanic Chamber of Commerce  
United States - Mexico Chamber of Commerce